

118 in 2000 · 118 in 2001  
No Change

# Narcotics Violations

*Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal drugs. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect cases known to the police.*

## Narcotics Violations: Geographic Breakdown

Neighborhood	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 1999	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2001
East Cambridge	8	7	13
MIT	4	6	2
Inman/Harrington	6	9	15
Area 4	60	23	17
Cambridgeport	37	21	9
Mid-Cambridge	15	11	14
Riverside	12	11	18
Agassiz	1	1	0
Peabody	8	8	9
West Cambridge	4	9	7
North Cambridge	9	7	11
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	3
Strawberry Hill	0	2	0
Unknown	1	1	0

city's neighborhoods.

Drug possession accounted for over 50% of drug arrests. Possession with intent to distribute accounted for 31% of the arrests. The remaining arrests were attributed to *drug trafficking* (primarily that of crack/cocaine), *conspiracy to violate the Controlled Substance Act*, and *the sale of narcotics within 1000 ft. of a school zone*.

As usual, marijuana was the favored drug among arrestees, 40% of whom were arrested for possession of the drug (with or without intent to distribute.) About 21% of total arrests were attributed to the possession of cocaine/crack, and 17% were attributed to possession of heroin.

### Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling 617-349-3359. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in***

275 in 2000 · 273 in 2001  
1% decrease

# Fraud and Forgery

*The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.*

In the first nine months of 2001, there were 273 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared to 275 in 2000. This 1% decrease is due mostly to fewer incidents of Embezzlement. These incidents are broken down as follows:

- **Counterfeiting:** There were six reports of phony money registered in Cambridge during the first nine months of the year.
- **Application:** Six of these crimes were reported so far this year. Most of the incidents involve opening accounts under false names, such as credit card and cell phone accounts.
- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took 23 reports for this crime in the first nine months of 2001, though most “bounced” checks are not reported as criminal incidents, particularly if it seems to be an innocent mistake.

Crime	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2001
<b>Counterfeiting</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Forgery/Uttering</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>
Application	(7)	(6)
Bad Check	(26)	(23)
Forged Check	(46)	(46)
ATM/Credit Card	(116)	(112)
<b>Embezzlement</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Con Games</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
Big Carrot	(2)	(4)
Utility Impostor	(0)	(2)
Pigeon Drop	(3)	(0)
Charity	(0)	(1)
Psychic	(2)	(0)
Miscellaneous	(14)	(13)
<b>Identity Theft</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>

- **Forged Check:** 46 crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim’s signature.

- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** 112 incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card, compared to 116 in 2000. This crime has become more popular with the proliferation of “check cards.” The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime, even though it has decreased 10% from last year.

- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, diverting company funds or property to himself. Only 13 were reported so far in 2001, compared to a whopping 43 during 2000. This crime records one of the largest

decreases of all in this category. The Crime Analysis Unit is seeing more and more incidents of “blue collar embezzlement” in which store clerks—often juveniles—take the day’s deposits or a selection of merchandise. Galleria and Harvard Square stores are affected most.

- **“Con” Games:** There were 21 swindles, con games or flim flams in the first nine months of 2001, the exact same number reported in 2000. The **“Big Carrot Scam”** which had surfaced in 1999, occurred twice during the first quarter of 2001 and reemerged in the second quarter with an additional two incidents. Unfortunately, no arrests were made as a result of these scams. All four of these incidents involved suspects posing as employees of such stores as Best Buy and Sears, claiming they could produce overstocked laptop computers at a low cost. Victims would meet these men at locations near the Galleria, exchange money often exceeding \$1,000, and then never see the suspects again.

672 in 2000 · 802 in 2001  
19% increase

## Malicious Destruction

*Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone’s property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore “minor” incidents of vandalism and graffiti.*

There were significant changes in the number of malicious destruction incidents reported in the neighborhoods in the third quarter of 2001. Due to a recent trend of graffiti in certain neighborhoods, some of the neighborhoods reported an increase – some slight, some dramatic – while others reported decreases – both slight and dramatic. Many areas' numbers doubled for malicious destruction, due to the graffiti problem. One main spree was reported in Harvard Square:

Neighborhood	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 1999	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2001
East Cambridge	106	61	86
MIT	9	17	8
Inman/Harrington	62	46	59
Area 4	68	97	97
Cambridgeport	51	80	90
Mid-Cambridge	53	69	82
Riverside	56	65	74
Agassiz	16	20	24
Peabody	56	40	74
West Cambridge	44	57	78
North Cambridge	88	76	96
Cambridge Highlands	12	20	8
Strawberry Hill	14	24	26

- Over 20 businesses in the West Cambridge area, specifically the Harvard Square area, were tagged with acid-like paint on the business glass windows during the middle of May. All of the businesses and retail stores were hit on the same night. No suspects have been identified.
- In various locations all over Cambridge, many city walls, street, etc., have been spray painted with 'tags' (graffiti-like symbols/letters/language identifiable by a certain group of individuals – usually the 'taggers' themselves). Residential homes, apartment buildings, and motor vehicles have also fallen victim to this crime.
- A spree of four malicious destruction incidents

was reported in August around the intersection of Mount Auburn Street & Fresh Pond Parkway. Either the windshield or the back windows of four cars were smashed with various objects.

- In the beginning of September, a spree of four incidents of malicious destruction of motor vehicles was reported in the area of 777 Memorial Drive. Each of the motor vehicles were "keyed," and some reported other body damage.

As with other crimes, graffiti incidents probably reflect greater reporting than actual occurrences. Efforts of the city's Graffiti Hotline and Graffiti Task Force seem to be paying off with both increased awareness and increased removal of graffiti from public and private buildings.

The graffiti hotline can be reached at **349-INFO**. You can call to:

- Report existing graffiti
- Provide information to help apprehend "taggers."
- Get information about removal supplies and techniques for graffiti on your property.
- Get information about community clean-up days.

Category	2000	2001
Car window smashed	152	163
Dents/other damage to car	165	166
Tires slashed or punctured	74	89
Scratches, "pinstripes"	52	38
Attempted theft	0	27
<b>Total Damage to Autos</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>483</b>
Misc. damage at residences	46	48
Window of residence smashed	31	29
<b>Total Damage to Residences</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>
Window of business smashed	44	48
Misc. damage to businesses	36	42
<b>Total Damage to Businesses</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Damage to Other Personal Property</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Graffiti</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>149</b>

70 in 2000 · 61 in 2001  
13% Decrease

## Sex Offenses

*The term “sex offenses” refers to six offenses of a sexual nature, not including rape, which is a Part I crime.*

### Prostitution and Solicitation

Crime	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2001
Prostitution & Solicitation	2	0
Indecent Assault	11	13
Indecent Exposure	16	18
Peeping & Spying	10	8
Annoying & Accosting	15	14
Obscene Phone Calls	16	8

Prostitution is most commonly associated with “streetwalking”—that is, prostitutes working the street corners looking for clients to pick them up in cars. This type of prostitution has long been considered a sign of urban decay and social disorganization. Consequently, the Cambridge Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit has aggressively targeted both “streetwalkers” and “johns” over the past decade with seasonal stings. Their efforts have nearly eradicated the presence of visible

streetwalking in the city of Cambridge.

There have been no prostitution arrests recorded in Cambridge so far in 2001. On March 10, 2000, the Special Investigations Unit targeted two “escort services” operating in Cambridge. “Employees” of both services agreed to meet undercover detectives at the Marriott Hotel in Cambridge Center. When the “escorts” started quoting prices for sexual favors, they were arrested.

### Indecent Assault

Indecent assault involves the unwanted touching of one person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Incidents that show that the offender attempted or intended to rape the victim are counted as rapes, not as indecent assaults. In about 60% of incidents, the offender and victim know each other. There was a huge jump in the number of indecent assault crimes reported in 1999, however for the past two years the number has declined.

Indecent assault is categorized in a manner similar to rape. In the third quarter of 2001, incidents broke into the following categorizations:

- Two of the indecent assaults were classified as acquaintance in nature with the victim having had a prior relationship with the assailant.
- There have been 11 blitz type assaults reported where the victim was grabbed in a private place by an assailant while walking in a public place

### Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure crimes generally fall into three classifications: “flashers,” who deliberately expose themselves to unsuspecting passers-by; homeless or “street” people who urinate in public places (many of the “flashers” are homeless as well); and people who simply show no discretion in front of an open window

or while sunbathing. When arrested, flashers are often intoxicated, under the influence of narcotics, or mentally disturbed.

The 18 incidents of indecent exposure resulted in six arrests. There were no discernible spatial or temporal patterns associated with this activity.

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## **Peeping & Spying**

Peeping and spying offenders peer through the windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. There was one arrest for this crime on a summer eve in July, when a Somerville man was arrested after responding officers noticed him atop a North Cambridge garage with multiple pairs of binoculars. The neighbors had noticed the man looking in windows and called police, who arrested him on the spot.

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## **Annoying & Accosting**

“Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex” is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns.

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## **Obscene Telephone Calls**

Obscene telephone calls are as old as the telephone itself, though incidents have been declining for several years, thanks to innovations like Caller ID and advanced call tracing technology.

The 8 incidents of obscene telephone calls reported during the first half of 2001 do not show any patterns or trends; however, we suspect that this crime has a high underreporting factor.

# **Other Part II Crimes**

*Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.*

Crime	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2001
Disorderly Conduct	45	39
Drinking in Public	43	17
Annoying Phone Calls	205	146
Hit & Run Accidents	577	607
Kidnapping & Attempt. Kidnapping	4	2
Liquor Sale/ Possession Crimes	5	2
Operating Under the Influence	58	35
Threats to Commit a Crime	340	324
Traffic Arrests	163	119
Trespassing	76	48
Weapons Violations	7	7
Extortion/Blackmail	0	2

Some notes on these other Part II Crimes:

- The **Disorderly Conduct** count dropped by approximately 13% since the third half of 2000, with most incidents occurring on weekend nights, in Central and Harvard Squares. Central Square hosted thirteen incidents, all of which resulted in arrests, while Harvard Square experienced ten incidents, with nine ending in arrest. Four arrests took place in Inman Square, most of which resulted from excessive drinking while other incidents involved loud music from neighboring apartments.
- Out of the seventeen **Public Drinking** incidents, fifteen resulted in an arrest during the first nine months of 2001. In response to complaints by Central Square residents and business owners, enforcement continued throughout 2001, leading to a 64% drop in arrests from 2000's Third Quarter.
- **Hit and run accidents** are often among the most commonly reported crimes in Cambridge. Of those reported within the first half of 2001, 4% involved injury to pedestrians, 23% involved damage to moving cars, 72% to parked cars, and 1% to other property.
- **Traffic arrests** decreased by 27% in the third quarter of 2001. Most arrests were made during the past three months, accounting for 42% of the 119 incidents thus far this year. Offenses resulting in an arrest include failure to stop, illegal turns, driving with suspended license and/or registration, etc., uninsured motor vehicle and expired inspection sticker among various other offenses.
- Three **weapons violations** in September were discovered as a result of arresting for other reasons. For example, an arrest was made at the Galleria Mall in mid-September for shoplifting – after the arrest, ammunition and a knife were found on the arrestee. Gunshots were reported as being heard at Jefferson Park in late August, but no one was injured.